

Subject Matter Briefing

Saudi National Day

Introduction

- Saudi National Day, held annually on September 23, commemorates the unification of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by King Ibn Saud in 1932.
 - It further celebrates the renaming of Saudi Arabia from the Kingdom of Nejd Hejaz.
- Made a national holiday in 2005, Saudi National Day is the first nonreligious public holiday in Saudi Arabia.

Saudi National Day

- In its 90-year history, Saudi National Day has become one of the foremost days on the Saudi calendar.
 - Significant announcements are often made during Saudi National Day, including the opening of King Abdullah University of Science and Technology in 2009.
- This day is marked by folklore, dances, songs, and traditional festivals across Saudi Arabia and the world.
 - Buildings and roads are decorated with Saudi flags and people dress in green and white, the colors of the Saudi flag.
 - The celebration also focuses on educating and highlighting Saudi Arabia's history to generations of Saudis across the world through workshops and interactive programs.
- Saudis across the world celebrate the holiday wherever they are, including here in the United States.
- Past U.S. media coverage regarding Saudi National Day includes stories about Saudi student groups who celebrated by hosting campus events, sharing stories, pictures, and traditional foods.

Saudi National Day 2020

- This year, despite the ongoing challenges of COVID-19, Saudi Arabia will be celebrating their 90th Saudi National Day.
 - This year's celebration will feature more virtual events highlighting not only Saudi Arabia's history but the exciting reforms and transformation occurring in Saudi Arabia thanks to Vision 2030.

Conclusion

- Saudi National Day is one of the most important days on the Saudi calendar, similar to that of July 4th here in the United States.
- Millions of Saudi citizens each year celebrate their people's history and future on Saudi National Day, sharing with the world the pride and excitement they have for their home.
- As Saudi Arabia continues to play a pivotal role in international affairs and the world economy, Saudi National Day will continue to be a day of significance around the world.

These materials are distributed by LS2group on behalf of the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia. Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.